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Washington Perspective

Salinger's Trip Sop To Russians

By CHARLES BARTLETT
Special to Post-Times

WASHINGTON — There is no hidden international significance in the plan for Pierre Salinger to visit Russia. When Adjuhei visited the White House Tuesday, he complained that Russian feelings had been hurt by the leak of the invitation to Robert Kennedy and the President is said to have decided to let Pierre go largely as a sop to the Russian disappointment that neither he nor his brother is ready to make the visit. Just as Adjuhei is given no serious negotiating function by the Russians, Salinger will have none beyond his self-appointed mission of broadening the publicity exchanges.

—Adjuhei, who has made three trips to this country in the past year, reported that his father-in-law, chairman Khrushchev, now calls him "The American." The Izvestia editor had been in Cuba for two weeks and reflected the sentiment on that island by asking earnestly in many quarters whether the U.S. is a second invasion.

Adjuhei professed to have been deeply impressed by Castro.

—The repairs to the Atlas booster which will carry the Mercury capsule and John Glenn aloft require the removal of the rocket engine and the construction within the kerosene tank of a scaffolding from which workers will be able to reach the plastic insulation at the top of the tank. It will be simply torn out and no other repairs are necessary.

—The greatest problem on the delays in the Glenn shot are the concentration of reporters, who grow restless and difficult, and the borrowed naval vessels, greater in number than the ships which make up the Sixth Fleet. Beyond that the whole lunar program is slowed somewhat by the delay, since a number of personnel changes and reorganizations in the growing NASA organization are awaiting completion of the shot.

—Secretary of Defense McNamara has met with Congressional committees in private for more than 30 hours during the past two weeks and has been emphatic in these sessions in asserting

that his plans do not include a single uniform for all the services. He is pressing for much greater coordination between the services but he intends to retain the individual identities of all the branches, including the Marine Corps. When the transcript of his testimony is made public later in February, it is expected to do much to calm the growing fears of the services about McNamara's unification plans. The Defense Secretary is said to be drawing heavy praise from the Congressional committees for his efforts in his first year of office.

—One little known fact about McNamara is that he has taken a small room off his office and lined it with small cubby-holes, each labeled with a problem on which he is personally working. He himself puts the relevant papers in the cubby-holes and takes them out when he needs them. He thus avoids the uncertainties of secretarial filing.

—The Senate investigation of President Kennedy's discovery that the Strategic Materials Stockpile contains more than the national requirements is expected to disclose the extensive use in

recent years of this purchasing authority to support non-economic mining operations within the U.S. Western senators were influential in persuading the previous administration to use the stockpile to keep mines going that could not compete with sources available elsewhere in the hemisphere.

—The new CIA director, John McCone, is not expected to retain the services of Richard Bissell as an operating chief of the agency. Bissell, a Cambridge professor, had direct charge of the Cuban invasion last April.

—When Cyrille Adoula, prime minister of the Congo, visits Washington Monday, he will have the opportunity to confront the senators who have been the most outspoken critics of the U.N. operation in his support of his government. Sen. Albert Gore, chairman of the subcommittee investigating the Congo, has invited Adoula to a tea which will become a forum for questions and answers. Gore and other officials who have come to respect Adoula are confident that he is capable of standing up under this test.